

I am urging the board to please turn down the decision relaxing media ownership rules. I do not believe FCC chairman Powell's assertions that media companies cannot grow and compete, nor do I believe that the alleged diversity of the media is such that it won't matter.

It will. Music playlists are sterile, pay-for-play, and stations are voice tracked by a computer. Local news no longer exists, and many stations don't appear to even have anyone around to answer the phones. Media conglomerates operated by people like Rupert Murdoch slant the programming and the news the way they want it, and Americans are deprived of quality entertainment, unbiased reporting and true diversity.

If you do this, there will soon be only one or two broadcasting companies owning every newspaper, every radio station and every TV outlet in America. There will be no free press, or free anything, except what is controlled by a latter-day propaganda ministry.

Thank you.

T. Gates